

Breakout Session Title: Biotic Communities

Wednesday, October 6th, 2004
SOLEC 2004

Discussion Session Summary Form

Number of Participants: 24

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Session Highlights

1. Many of the participants are not active participants in indicator development and they did not understand the context of how these bundles were developed. Lots of comments on how all these indicators are integrated into a complete picture.
2. Quite a discussion on why there was not more baseline information for each indicator. Doug Dodge responded and provided that explanation.
3. Managers are not responsive to the complexity of indicator development and do not provide the financial support to move beyond individual programs to the deeper research needs of understanding ecosystem indicators.

Highlights of feedback on indicators assessments and bundle assessments

- Increase number of major invasive species for terrestrial and aquatic – perhaps an IBI for invasives?
- Potential indicators “Amount of Round Goby Migrations”
- Include agency programs and actions in the indicator to have some idea of actions on the ground.
- Include FWS data on amphibian deformity monitoring in the indicator
- For each indicator – what is the unit? What is being measured?
- Invasive species bundle is thin – potential indicator: “Number of Research Projects Targeted at Prevention vs. Biological Impacts”
- Increase in Piping Plover populations would make a good indicator

Highlights of Management Implications

- Managers do not provide resources for the long term research and study to truly understand the Great Lakes ecosystems
- Staff do not know what managers want – if we knew, we would get that to them

Memorable Quotes

- “Managers do not spill any beer over the loss of Diporeia” Doug Dodge
- “We won’t know when we get there!!” Doug Dodge

